

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 211
By Pleasant

A RESOLUTION to honor the members of the Kerrville
Presbyterian Church and celebrate its 147th
anniversary.

WHEREAS, the historical development of the character of our State, national identity, and culture owes much to the churches organized by the early settlers of this land; those communities of faith provided a place for worship and spiritual development, and the chronicles of their common life are inextricably bound up in our history as a State and nation; and

WHEREAS, this legislative body is pleased to specially recognize significant milestones in the history of the churches of this State; one such dynamic and historic community of faith is Kerrville Presbyterian Church, which, on July 25, 2005, will celebrate its 147th Anniversary; and

WHEREAS, organized and founded in 1857, by Dr. Andrew Hart Kerr, the Kerrville Presbyterian congregation, then known as Delta Presbyterian Church, consisted of twenty-three members; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Andrew Hart Kerr served free of charge as the minister for the Delta Presbyterian Church from the time of organization, 1857, until 1868 when he resigned and was succeeded by Reverend A. Shotwell; and

WHEREAS, the first elders of the church were William Nelson, Chamberlyn Jones, and Dr. John K. Kerr, Andrew Kerr's brother; and

WHEREAS, church services were first held at the home place of Albert Ward, Sr. and later were held in the home of Dr. John K. Kerr during which time the minister was the Reverend John H. Rice; and

WHEREAS, the Kerrville Presbyterian Church has weathered many trials and tribulations; in 1878 the yellow fever killed many church members including Reverend John H. Rice, and in 1917 the Kerrville Presbyterian Church building was demolished by a tornado; and

WHEREAS, having no church building, the Kerrville Presbyterian Church members worshipped with their Methodist brothers and sisters until they could collect the funds needed to build a new church building; and

WHEREAS, in 1925, a brick church building was built on a ten-acre lot given by Dr. Andrew Hart Kerr, and the Kerrville Presbyterian Church, a flock without a fold, once again had a place to worship; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Kerr founded the town of Kerrville around 1870, and in 1877, he arranged for a real estate festival to sell Kerrville town lots and twenty-five to fifty acre farm fields; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Andrew Hart Kerr, DD, a pillar of the community, owned the Kerr Plantation, several thousand acres of land, and a general merchandise business; and

WHEREAS, in 1887, Dr. Kerr donated \$3,500, 44 acres of land, and 100,000 bricks for a depot so the railroad could run through Kerrville; and

WHEREAS, because of Dr. Kerr's benevolence and business success, Kerrville was a thriving and bustling community; in Kerrville there was a cotton gin, five general merchandise stores, a school, several churches, two blacksmith shops, and a woodworks company that specialized in making wagons, buggies, and farm implements; and

WHEREAS, in 1997 when the Kerrville Presbyterian Church celebrated its 140th year anniversary, Marlene Moore wrote a poem about the church and its struggles throughout the years entitled "I Live" and Kitty Haley was commissioned to do an oil painting of the first church building and the current church building; and

WHEREAS, Ernest P. Scott, the current minister of the Kerrville Presbyterian Church, has served the Kerrville community since the early 1970's and continues to evince his devout commitment to God, community, State, and country, and

WHEREAS, that great cloud of witnesses, both living and dead, that constitutes the congregation of Kerrville Presbyterian Church, has furnished many community leaders

throughout its history, and it is appropriate that the record of its communicants and their life together be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby celebrate the 147th anniversary of the Kerrville Presbyterian Church and honor the members of this church in the Kerrville community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.